Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OMB-01 /052 W

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R 140750Z JUL 77 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346 INFO US MISSION GENEVA 862

UNCLAS MANILA 10847

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: TEXTILES - US/GOP TEXTILE AGREEMENT: CATEGORY 49

REF: MANILA 10627

1. EMBASSY HAS AGAIN BEEN APPROACHED CONCERNING CATEGORY 49 EMBARGO BY TEXTILE EXPORT BOARD (TEB) AS WELL AS TWO PHILIPPINE EXPORTERS, ANTONY CABALLERO OF MARAVELLES AND DICKSON YUEN OF SAMPAGUITA GARMENT CORPORATION. MARAVALES APPAREL AND SAMPAGUITA HAVE HAD CATEGORY 49 APPAREL EMBARGOED SINCE APRIL. IN ADDITION, SAMPAGUITA HAS JUST HAD FIVE THOUSAND PIECES OF CATEGORY 48 APPAREL EMBARGOED. THE SHIPMENT (CONTAINING CATEGORY 48 RAINCOATS ACCORDING TO YUEN) WAS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES BY EXCEL TRAILING COMPANY, 1441 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10018. AN ADDITIONAL SHIPMENT OF 43000 RAINCOATS (STILL EN ROUTE) IS BEING IMPORTED BY MAY DEPARTMENT STORES, INTERNATIONAL, 50 EST 44TH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036. SAMPAGUITA BELIEVES THESE TWO SHIPMENTS MAY BE MISCLASSIFIED BY U.S. CUSTOMS AS CATEGORY 49 ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PROPERLY CATEGORY 48 ITEMS. SAMPAGUITA MANAGEMENT IN MANILA HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO RELAY THEIR CONCERNS TO U.S. DEPARTMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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OF COMMERCE SO THAT MATTER CAN RESOLVED WITH IMPORTERS.

2. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE AND MOUNTING CONCERN AMONG FILIPINO EXPORTERS CONCERNING CATEGORY 49, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING REACHED DURING RECENT BILATERAL TALKS IN GENEVA WOULD AGAIN RE-OPEN THIS CATEGORY. EMBOFF HAS EXPLAINED TO THE TEB AND

THE PHILIPPINE EXPORTERS THAT AMENDING AGREEMENT TAKES TIME.

NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAKING

EVERY EFFORT TO RESOLVE CATEGORY 49 PROBLEMS AS QUICKLY AS

POSSIBLE. EMBOFF HAS ALSO HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT TEXTILE

EXPORT BOARD IS PREPARING DRAFT NOTE TO AMEND AGREEMENT

ON BASIS OF GENEVA MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOUL

BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST IF U.S. PROVIDED DRAFT, AND WOULD APPRECIATE

RECEIVING TEXT ASAP.

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Message Attributes

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